



**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

INVENTOR(S) : Gerhard E. Welsch, et al.  
TITLE : **METAL SPONGES FOR RAPID  
SURFACE-CHEMICAL  
REACTIONS**  
APPLICATION NO. : 09/914,517  
FILED : April 29, 2002  
CONFIRMATION NO. : 4366  
EXAMINER : Tracy Mae Dove  
ART UNIT : 1745  
LAST OFFICE ACTION : February 24, 2004  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. : CWRZ 2 00269  
Cleveland, OH 44114  
May 24, 2004

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT FEE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97, 1.98 and MPEP §609, applicant(s) submit(s) the following Disclosure Statement concerning art of which the applicant(s) is (are) aware. A copy of PTO-1449 is enclosed herewith.

This Information Disclosure Statement is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to herein or submitted herewith is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with the United States Patent and Trademark Office OG Notice dated 05 August 2003, waiving the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(i), for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and U.S. patent application publication

for all U.S. national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003, Applicant(s) has not enclosed copies of the cited U.S. patents and applications with this Disclosure.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(g) and (h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b) exists.

Under §1.98(a)(3), no concise explanation of relevance is required for information that is in the English language. Accordingly, the enclosed require(s) no further explanation (or no translation is available).

Consideration of the appropriate paragraph(s) indicated below is respectfully requested:

☐ **WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF FILING:** Under §1.97(b)(1), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the application. Although it is believed no fee is necessary, any deficiency in fees should be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-0308.

☐ **BEFORE FIRST OFFICE ACTION:** Under §1.97(b)(3), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. Although it is believed no fee is necessary, any deficiency in fees should be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-0308.

☐ **INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT:** Under §1.97(e)(1), the undersigned certifies that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. Although it is believed no fee is necessary, any deficiency in fees should be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-0308.

☒ **BEFORE FINAL ACTION/WITH FEE:** Under §1.97(c)(2), this information shall be considered if filed before the mailing date of a final action if accompanied by a fee in the amount of \$180.00 as required by §1.17(p). Accordingly, the necessary fee accompanies this Information Disclosure Statement. Any overpayment or deficiency can be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-0308.

☐ **PRIORITY CLAIM:** The attached PTO 1449 Form includes all patents, publications, or other information previously cited by or submitted to the Office in one or more prior applications from which the present application claims priority. These one or more prior applications are identified in the papers accompanying the filing of

this application. In accordance with §609 MPEP, only copies of art not previously submitted are enclosed.

It is respectfully requested that the attached document(s) be considered and officially cited in examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

**FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,  
MINNICH & McKEE, LLP**

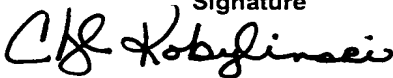
June 9, 2004  
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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I certify that this Information Disclosure Statement and accompanying document(s) are being

- ☒ deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8, addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment FEE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.
- ☐ transmitted to facsimile number \_\_\_\_\_ under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 on the date indicated below.
- ☐ deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated below and is addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

<b>Express Mail Label No.:</b>	<b>Signature</b> 
<b>Date</b> <b>15 JUNE 2004</b>	<b>Printed Name</b> <b>Cheryl M. Kobylinski</b>

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANTS**  
(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

**COMPLETE IF KNOWN**

Application Number	09/914,517
Filing Date	April 29, 2002
First Named Inventor	Gerhard E. Welsch, et al.
Art Unit	1745
Examiner Name	Tracy Mae Dove
Attorney Docket No.	CWRZ 2 00269

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Document No. Number-Kind Code (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	AA	US-6,226,173	05/2001	Welsch, et al.	
	AB	US-6,495,021	12/2002	Welsch, et al.	
	AC	US-3,410,766	11/1968	Schmidt	
	AD	US-4,041,359	08/1977	Mizushima, et al.	
	AE	US-4,488,941	12/1984	Love	
	AF	US-5,185,075	02/1993	Rosenberg, et al.	
	AG	US-4,763,229	08/1988	Ohtuka, et al.	
	AH	US-4,818,562	04/1989	Arcella, et al.	
	AI	US-5,770,036	06/1998	Ahern, et al.	
	AJ	US-6,113,983	09/2000	Zachariah, et al.	
	AK	US-			
	AL	US-			

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document Country Code-Number Kind Code (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Country	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T
	AM	WO 01/57928	08/2001	PCT		
	AN	2168383A	06/1986	GB		
	AO					
	AP					

**OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume/issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	T
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